Minutes
Hardin County Fiscal Court Regular Meeting
September 22, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul called the meeting to order and requested a roll call vote.
Answering:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: here; Squire Larry Hicks: here; Squire Kenny Muse: here; Squire Aaron Pennington: here; Squire Kenny Saltsman: here; Squire EG Thompson: here; Squire Patsy Whitehead: here; Squire Chris Yates: here; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: here.

The Invocation was given by Squire Whitehead.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Squire Saltsman.

County Judge/Executive Keith Taul made opening comments welcoming those in attendance and previewing the agenda.

Approve Hardin County Fiscal 09/08/2026 minutes
Motion to Approve by Squire Thompson and seconded by Squire Whitehead.
Voting:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.
Motion passed.

Informational Items
a. Hardin County Museum Presentation - Tim Asher
Department/Office Reports
a. Presentations
i. EMS – Mark Peterson
ii. E-911 – Mike Leo

Citizen's Concerns or Comments:
County Judge/Executive Keith Taul opened the floor for citizen comments. None were offered.

Ordinances/Resolutions/Agreements
i. First reading of **Ordinance No. 349 Series 2026** Entitled: An Ordinance Imposing a Temporary Moratorium on Rezoning and Conditional Use Permits Relating to Data Centers Pending Review and Recommended Changes by the Planning Commission
Motion to Approve by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Whitehead.
Discussion:
Judge Taul read the ordinance aloud, which defines a "data center," imposes a 180-day moratorium on the acceptance of applications related to data centers, and notes this is to preserve the status quo while the Planning Commission reviews the matter.
Squire Thompson stated he thinks it's the right move to protect citizens and ensure due diligence. He urged the court to move with deliberateness to develop a plan that addresses citizen safety

and considers positive economic impacts, but agreed the moratorium is a very good move in the meantime.
Squire Clem clarified that the moratorium is a pause to allow time to develop a good ordinance that protects citizens, property rights, and the long-term interests of the county. He noted he would prefer a carefully worded ordinance be already in place but supports the moratorium and expects the court and Planning Commission will work in short order to create rules to move forward.
Squire Hicks said it is something to be very cautious about. Based on what he knows, he would not be in favor of data centers at all right now but is willing to listen and learn. He noted he has received lots of calls from concerned citizens, and this is a big concern in the county, possibly due to a lack of education on the topic.
Squire Whitehead added that the six-month moratorium is needed so the court is not scrambling to make overnight decisions if an application comes in, allowing for a logical and educated approach, but agreed that they need to move with speed.
Squire Clem followed up that it's not that the court doesn't know about the issue, as he and others have been doing research, and the Planning Commission has put a lot of work in. He stressed it's about following the required process.
Judge Taul agreed, stating there have been many discussions and that Planning Director Adam King has been working on it. He clarified that while there has been a "soft moratorium" because data centers aren't mentioned in zoning, this formalizes it to prevent being caught off guard. He added that information about data centers is changing quickly, and he is confident they can create good amendments to protect citizens.
Voting:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.
Motion passed.

ii. First reading of **Ordinance No. 350 Series 2026** Entitled: An Ordinance Relating to the Sale of Dogs and Cats
Motion to Approve by Squire Yates and seconded by Squire Saltsman.
Discussion: Squire Chris Yates thanked Radcliff City Councilwoman Toshie Murrell and Elizabethtown Councilwoman Julia Springsteen for bringing the ordinance to his attention. He stated the ordinance will ensure pets are sold by reputable breeders and encourage adoption from local shelters. He also thanked Animal Control Director Mike McNutt and County Attorney Jenny Oldham for their help in developing the ordinance.
Squire Clem mentioned he was told Hardin is one of two counties in the state taking these steps.
Squire Thompson added that he appreciates the unified approach by the cities and county.
Voting:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.
Motion passed.

Consent Agenda
a. Approve **Treasurer's Financial Report 08.2026.**

b. Approve **September Claims 9.22.2026, September ACH Claims 9.22.2026**.
c. Approve **August Payroll with Registers – (8.11.2026, 8.14.2026, 8.28.2026)**.
d. Approve **Resolution 2026-156** related to Financial Transfers.
e. Approve **Resolution 2026-157** related to Appointing Viewers for Road Closing - Spurrier Alley in White Mills.
f. Approve **Resolution 2026-158** related to E-911 UPS purchase from State Contract.
g. Approve **Resolution 2026-159** related to Bridge Maintenance on White Mills Hwy 84 Bridge purchase State Contract MA 605 2200000211.
h. Approve **Resolution 2026-160** related to Road Personnel.
i. Approve **Resolution 2026-161** related to Animal Care & Control Personnel.
j. Approve **Resources & Community Support Committee Meeting Minutes** September 14, 2026
k. Approve **Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** September 15, 2026.
l. Approve **Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes** September 9, 2026.
m. Approve **Emergency Services Meeting Minutes** September 10, 2026.
Discussion: Squire Saltsman and Hicks sought clarification on the repairs of the White Mills bridge. Judge Taul stated that the necessary supports would be repaired and the bridge would be open to vehicle traffic once the project is complete.
Motion to Approve by Squire Hicks and seconded by Squire Thompson.
Voting:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.
Motion passed.

Concluding Comments:

Clerk Smith reminded the public that the deadline to register to vote for the November election is October 5, 2026. The absentee mail-in voting portal is open, and over 500 ballots have already been sent out. He recommended returning absentee ballots via the secure drop boxes at either clerk's office location.

Squire Chris Yates announced the next Emergency Services Committee meeting will be on October 15, 2026, across the hall, and is open to the public.

Squire Patsy Whitehead announced the next Resources & Community Support Committee meeting is on October 19, 2026, across the hall.

Squire Fred Clem, Jr. announced the next town hall meeting will be September 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The next Finance Committee meeting is on October 20, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. He reminded citizens not to drink and drive or text and drive.

Squire EG Thompson congratulated the Upton community on their 50th annual Upton Days celebration and expressed his love for the community.

Squire Larry Hicks thanked the Rineyville area for their Rineyville Days celebration on September 19, 2026, noting the great turnout.

Squire Kenny Muse thanked Big Josh Lindblom and the county inmate work crews for keeping the communities looking clean and well-maintained. He also announced the next Public Works meeting is on October 14, 2026.

Judge/Executive Keith Taul announced the next Fiscal Court meeting will be October 13, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. He also reminded everyone that county offices will be closed on October 12, 2026, for Columbus Day.

Closed Session

Pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(g) discussions between a public agency and a representative of a business entity and discussions concerning a specific proposal, if open discussions would jeopardize the sitting, retention, expansion or upgrading of the business.
Motion to Enter into Closed Session by Judge Taul, and seconded by Squire Pennington.
Voting:
Squire Fred Clem, Jr.: yes; Squire Larry Hicks: yes; Squire Kenny Muse: yes; Squire Aaron Pennington: yes; Squire Kenny Saltsman: yes; Squire EG Thompson: yes; Squire Patsy Whitehead: yes; Squire Chris Yates: yes; County Judge/Executive Keith Taul: yes.
Motion passed.

Adjourn
Following closed session, a motion to adjourn by Squire Pennington and seconded by Squire Muse. Court was adjourned without objection, County Judge/Executive Keith Taul presiding.

KEITH L. TAUL
HARDIN COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

ATTEST:

BRIAN D. SMITH
CLERK, HARDIN COUNTY FISCAL COURT